

URBAN DISTRICT OF BLETCHLEY



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER

of

HEALTH

for the year

1950



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*Chairman of the Council* : Councillor H. J. PRICE, J.P.

## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

*Chairman* : Councillor S. MAYCOCK, J.P.

*Councillors* : T. CLORAN, P. J. DUFFY, W. H. GURNEY

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

*Medical Officer of Health* :

D. H. WALDRON, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M., & H., COL.I.M.S. (RETD.)  
(*The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B.  
and Buckingham R.D.C., Linslade U.D.C., Wing R.D.C., Area M.O.  
for North Bucks and Divisional School M.O. for the North Bucks  
Division and Buckingham and Winslow District.*)

## SANITARY INSPECTOR

J. F. SMITHIE, M.I.MUN.E., M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.



# To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Bletchley

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Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1950.

The health of the District during the year has been satisfactory.

The Death Rate is much lower than that for 1949, and it is also much lower than that for the rest of the County and England and Wales.

The Birth Rate maintained its average and is well above that for the rest of the County and for England and Wales.

The Infantile Mortality Rate again shows a most gratifying drop from 25.8 in 1948, to 12.4 in 1949, to **5.4** in 1950. This figure is about one fifth of that for the rest of the County and about one sixth of that for the whole of England and Wales, and is a tribute to the skill and care of the doctors practising in the District, and also to our District Nurses and Health Visitors.

I should like to record another year of pleasant co-operation with Mr. R. Sherwood, Town Clerk, and Mr. J. F. Smithie, your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector and their staffs.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. H. WALDRON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS					1949	1950
Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	4462	4462
Population	...	...	...	...	10461	10,800
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	2923	3043
Rateable Value (1st April)	...	...	...	...	£52812	£58217
Rate per £1	...	...	...	...	24/-	24/-
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	...	...	...	...	£220/1/-	£242/11/5

### BIRTHS :

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	Males	76	84
					Females	80	90
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	Males	4	6
					Females	1	4
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	...		17.0	17.0
Birth rate per 1,000 Population—							
Bucks County	...	...	...	...		16.9	15.5
Birth rate per 1,000 Population—							
England and Wales	...	...	...	...		16.7	15.8
Still Births	...	...	...	...	Males	2	Nil
					Females	2	4

### DEATHS :

					Males	45	41
					Females	43	42
Death rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	...		9.3	7.7
Death rate per 1,000 Population—							
Bucks County	...	...	...	...		10.5	10.3
Death rate per 1,000 Population—							
England and Wales	...	...	...	...		11.7	11.6
Maternal Mortality	...	...	...	...		Nil	Nil
Maternal Mortality — England and							
Wales	...	...	...	...		0.98	0.86

# INFANTILE MORTALITY :

	1949	1950
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births ... ..	12.4	5.4
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births Bucks County ...	22.5	24.8
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births England & Wales	32.0	29.8
Deaths from Measles... ..	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough ...	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	1	Nil

# PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH :

				1949			1950		
				M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Influenza	...	...	...	1	1	2	0	0	0
Anterior Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1	0	1	1	1	2
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	0	1	1	0	0	0
Cancer	...	...	...	11	4	15	8	3	11
Diabetes	...	...	...	1	0	1	0	0	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	3	3	6	6	9	15
Heart Disease	...	...	...	16	18	34	13	16	29
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	0	0	0	1	2	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	1	4	5	3	0	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	3	4	1	2	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	1	1	2	0	0	0
Digestive Disease	...	...	...	2	2	4	0	1	1
Nephritis	...	...	...	0	1	1	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia and Fever	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Violence	...	...	...	4	1	5	2	1	3
All Other Causes	...	...	...	3	4	7	6	7	13
Suicide	...	...	...						
Total	...	...	...	45	43	88	41	42	83

## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### 1. LABORATORY SERVICES

The bacteriological work of the District has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Oxford and Luton. Samples of Water and Sewage for chemical analysis are sent to London.

#### 2. AMBULANCE SERVICES

These services have been administered by the County Council since July 5th, 1948. An Ambulance Station with two Ambulances and two Sitting Case Cars has been established in the Town which has dealt satisfactorily with all general cases including accidents. For cases of infectious disease the Ambulance from Aylesbury Isolation Hospital was used.

#### 3. NURSING FACILITIES

As in previous years the District Nurses carried on their very excellent and noble work.

#### 4. CLINICS

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare: This Clinic has been held weekly at the Welfare Clinic in Bletchley Road. The voluntary committee, District Nurses and Health Visitor attended each time and a doctor attended once a fortnight. I feel that too much praise cannot be given to the ladies of the voluntary committee who give so much of their spare time, ungrudgingly, to this work. The total number of children who attended during the year was 2,515.

(b) Chest Clinic: This clinic continues to do excellent work. It is a self-contained unit complete with X-ray apparatus, etc., and is under the personal supervision of the County Chest Physician. Sessions are held weekly.

(c) Physiotherapy Clinic: This clinic which is administered by the British Red Cross Society continues to do very good work. Unfortunately shortage of staff has at times hampered its work. The Regional Hospital Board are taking it over when suitable premises can be procured.



## 5. HOSPITALS

The following hospitals have served this area :

Infectious Diseases :

Aylesbury Isolation Hospital

Slade Hospital, Oxford.

Tuberculosis :

Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium.

General :

Northampton General Hospital

Bedford County Hospital

Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury

London Hospitals

Tindal House, Aylesbury

## 6. DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

This service, administered on behalf of the County Council by the Women's Voluntary Service, has done very good work since its inception. Approximately 93 cases were assisted during the year.

## SECTION C

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### A. WATER

#### (a) Quality

Bacteriological and chemical analysis have shown that a high standard of purity has been maintained as the undermentioned results will show :

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

(i) Nature of sample — Tap, Council Offices, Bletchley.

Plate Count Yeastrel Agar 3 days 22° C. aerobically Nil per ml.

Plate Count Yeastrel Agar 2 days 37° C. aerobically Nil per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37° C. ... Nil per 100 ml.

Approximate proportions of faecal and non-faecal coli : (a) Faecal coli ... Nil per cent

Remarks : satisfactory.

(ii) Nature of sample — Raw Water No. 2 Borehole — before treatment.

Probable number of coliform bacilli MacConkey 2 days 37° C. ... Nil per 100 ml.

Remarks : Satisfactory.

(iii) Nature of Sample — Raw Water No. 3 Borehole — before treatment.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37° C. ... Nil per 100 ml.

Approximate proportions of faecal and non-faecal coli :

(a) Faecal coli ... Nil per cent

(b) Non-Faecal coli ... Nil per cent

Remarks : satisfactory.

## CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

(iv) Nature of sample — Household tap, Wilton Avenue.

Analysis :						Parts per 100,000
Suspended Solids	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Dissolved Solids	...	...	...	...	...	20.0
Chloride (as $\text{Cl}_2$ )	...	...	...	...	...	1.5
Nitrate (as $\text{N}_2$ )	...	...	...	...	...	0.14
Nitrite	...	...	...	...	...	Very faint trace
Oxygen consumed from Permanganate (4 hrs. at 80° F.)	...	...	...	...	...	0.016(N/80)
pH Value	...	...	...	...	...	6.9
Free $\text{CO}_2$	...	...	...	...	...	0.5
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.0024
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.003
Permanent Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	4.03
Temporary Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	3.51
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	...	7.54
Iron	...	...	...	...	...	0.006

The Compulsory Purchase Order which the Council made in respect of land adjoining their works was not confirmed, but a licence to sink Borehole No. 5 was given. Exploratory borings proved the ground in that area to be unsuitable and it became necessary to ask for a Licence to sink Borehole No. 6 on a site near to Boreholes 2 and 3.

Meanwhile the rising consumption of water has necessitated the purchase of large quantities of water from Birchmoor Water and Sewage Committee and the Bucks Water Board, and it is only by the goodwill of these two authorities that continuity of supply has been provided.

Only six houses within the Urban District are not connected to the main.

## B. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Sewerage Disposal Works has again been seriously overloaded and the replacement of the works by a new one is the most urgent requirement of the town.

The Old Bletchley Disposal Works has continued to work fairly satisfactorily, but further drainage to the Works will soon see this overloaded.

### C. RIVERS AND STREAMS

No stagnation or obstructions occurred in the streams within the area during the year under review.

### D. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Practically 100 per cent of the houses in the district are now on the water carriage system.

### E. PUBLIC CLEANSING

The introduction of a new Refuse Collecting Vehicle during the year, together with increased collecting staff has enabled a weekly collection of refuse to be instigated with the consequent improvement in conditions. It is now rare to receive a complaint of an overflowing dustbin.

The Incinerator at North Street can now only deal with almost half the refuse, the remainder is dumped direct to tips.

### F. SHOPS

The need for lavatory accommodation at one cafe has not yet been met.

### G. CAMPING SITES

No sites registered.

### H. SMOKE ABATEMENT

The coming into operation of the new Coffee Factory in Denbigh Road has enabled Joseph Tetley & Co. Ltd., to remove from their Osborne Street factory all coffee processes, and so the nuisance in that area from coffee dust no longer takes place.

### I. SWIMMING BATHS

A Public Swimming Bath has again become one of the most urgent amenities required in the town.

### J. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Action has been taken in four cases for the eradication of bed bugs during the year.

### SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT (J. F. Smithie)

#### INSPECTIONS MADE

Water	...	...	261	Drainage	...	...	263
Bakehouses	...	...	11	Buildings	...	...	536
Factories	...	...	15	Destructor	...	...	51
Food Premises	...	...	61	Smoke	...	...	4
Housing	...	...	301	Slaughterhouses	...	...	165
Sewerage	...	...	185				
Total Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	1853
Houses and Clothing Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

## SECTION D

### HOUSING

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :

1.	(i) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	84
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	129
	(ii) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head(i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	84
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	84
	(iii)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	0
	(iv)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	0
2.		Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :	
		Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their officers ... ..	84
3.		Action under Statutory Powers during the year...	0
4.		HOUSING ACT, 1936 : Part IV. OVERCROWDING	
	(i) (a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	0
	(b)	Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	0
	(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	0
	(ii)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	0
	(iii) (a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	0
	(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	0
	(iv)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again been overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ..	0
	(v)	Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... ..	0

One hundred and fifty six new Council Houses have been completed in 1950 and work on 130 others was in progress at the end of the year.

## SECTION E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Ice Cream.

Samples of Ice Cream were taken for analysis.

(b) Meat

The Sanitary Inspector continued his duties as meat inspector and has submitted the following figures :

#### CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

		Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ...	...	1017	Nil	270	2246	55
Number inspected	...	1017	Nil	270	2246	55
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned		6	Nil	Nil	10	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned ... ..	...	249	Nil	3	12	17
Percentage of the number inspected infected with disease other than tuber- culosis ... ..	...	25.073%	Nil	1.1%	0.979%	34.545%
<i>Tuberculosis Only</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned		4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned ... ..	...	62	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	...	6.489%	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.818%

## SECTION F

### FACTORIES ACT

The Ministry of Labour and National Service Form 572 has been completed and copies forwarded to the relevant authorities.

## SECTION G

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### 1. GENERAL

There was a big drop in the incidence of Measles during the year but an increase in Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever. The Scarlet Fever notifications were a follow on of the mild epidemic at the end of the previous year.

Two cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis were notified, one of a child the other of an adult. There was no connection between the two cases.

#### 2. TUBERCULOSIS

Nineteen new cases were notified during the year of which seventeen were pulmonary and two non pulmonary. Five cases were subsequently removed from the Register.

There were two deaths during the year.

#### 3. CANCER

This disease continues to take its toll. There were eleven deaths during the year.

#### 4. NOTIFICATIONS

Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	19
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	14
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	29
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	43
Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis)...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...